

1 **REMARKS**

2 Applicants have carefully considered the positions of the Examiner, and respectfully
3 request reconsideration based upon the manifest differences between the claimed invention and
4 the cited reference.

5 In the Office Action dated February 12, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35
6 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Ahern et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,388,658 ("Ahern").
7 Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the following remarks and the above amendments
8 the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Initially, applicants have cancelled claims 1-3
9 and added new claims 4-28 which more clearly define the invention.

10 Regarding the Examiner's rejection in view of Ahern, applicants submit that Ahern
11 discloses a "high-end" KVM switching system for interconnecting a plurality of user terminals
12 with a plurality of remote computers allowing a user at a user terminal to access any one or more
13 of the remote computers – a well known technology. Specifically, each user terminal comprises
14 a keyboard, video display unit and a cursor control device, and switching hub routes signals
15 between the terminals and selected computers wherein the signals are in both digital and analog
16 form. According to Ahern, the switching hub is a modular system that comprises a plurality of
17 switch modules. Each switch module includes analog circuitry with an analog crosspoint
18 switching arrangement, and digital circuitry with a digital crosspoint switching arrangement for
19 communication of analog and digital signals respectively. The analog cards are for distributing
20 video signals, except for the horizontal and vertical synchronization signals, which are
21 transmitted by the digital cards. The digital cards are also utilized for routing of keyboard and
22 cursor control device data.

1 Applicants submit that, as is more clearly set forth in the new claims, the present
2 invention is very different from Ahern. Specifically, the system disclosed in Ahern routes
3 keyboard and cursor control device signals. According to Ahern, routing is the process of
4 moving signals along a path from a workstation to a remote computer. The present invention
5 does not do this. Rather, as claimed, signals generated at the user workstation are transmitted to
6 a computer processing unit (“CPU”) or microcontroller that reads and interprets the signals and
7 then emulates these signals with new signals, which are sent to the remote computer.

8 More specifically, according to Ahern, the switching hub is comprised of a plurality of
9 switching modules each with an analog crosspoint switching arrangement and a digital crosspoint
10 switching arrangement. This switching hub routes keyboard and cursor control device signals
11 from a terminal to a select computer. Ahern describes his invention as:

12 “comprising a switching hub (40) for routing keyboard and cursor control signals
13 transmitted from any one (1) of the terminals (1-6) to a selected computer
14 (201)...” (Ahern, Col. 2, lns. 3-5).

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16 In contrast, the present invention does not route signals from a workstation to a remote
17 computer. Instead, the switch according to the present invention receives and processes signals
18 from the user workstation, and then emulates these signals with new signals indicative of those
19 received signals from the workstation, which are, if necessary, transmitted to the desired remote
20 computer. Nowhere does Ahern describe or suggest such an emulation process or an apparatus
21 capable of such emulation. Turning specifically to new independent claims, 4, 17, and 25,
22 required is a switch unit that interprets and emulates keyboard and cursor control device signals.
23 These emulated signals are then transmitted to one of the remotely located computers. As
24 described above, Ahern does not teach this. Rather, all signals in the Ahern system are routed

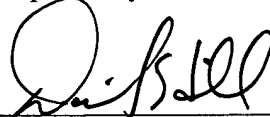
1 from the user workstation to the remote computer. That is, the same signals received from the
2 terminal are transmitted to the selected computer. Applicant's claimed invention represents a
3 vast improvement over such prior art systems.

4 The remaining claims (i.e., claims 5-16, 18-24, and 26-28) are dependant on and
5 incorporate the limitations of claims 4, 17 or 25. Therefore applicants submit these claims for at
6 least the reasons discussed above also are not and cannot be anticipated by Ahern.

7 In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as
8 claimed in claims 4-28 is not anticipated by the cited reference and it represents a patentable
9 contribution to the art. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for
allowance. Early and favorable action is accordingly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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